Rome 17th Nov. 1875

My dear Marcia

I've been scraping together & saving all my pennys for you until they now amount to another £5. which I will send you next letter in half like the last - I wait to get the Bank note & I'm sure it will be as much pleasure to you to receive it as it is to me to send it

I had your very cheerful letter, but I am afraid by this time you'll be in ugly Winter - Eleanor is under water at Bunbury & I see there no end to the inundations

You'll be amused to know that my Walter has bought a new house (9 Earls court Square South Kensington) & he has made the request to me for me to paint my Consular portrait for the mantle piece & I am now doing it (life size) with my sword & hat & the fine order of the Italian crown (given me by the King) he wants it to be as fine as possible so as to become the Heir loom of the Severn family

Think

of that. Kitty's wife had a legacy left her & with it
the Trustees have bought this house & the has
a nice garden for his children & was built by
his Sir Wm Pallisser & many friends are living close
by We have had much rain but no cold as yet.
& I was troubled with the rheumatism in my knees
but my good Doctor has cured me with electricity
a cold in my eyes has also troubled me, but by only
drinking water I am well again

I dread to hear of poor dear Tom & the cold
winter as he is such a sufferer & the winter so
long I am mending from the effects of the Roman
Summer which I am inclined to think is equal to
your winter. I did not find it as I was used to
do years back, but the cabbing out & walking
2 miles sets me up, the 2 miles I can but just
do & soon I fear twill do for me for I feel
that age is creeping on with many ills that
try my patience & ingenuity - But I expect
all that & am prepared for the worst

I hope you are not suffering from your cough

I dare say you know that I have 25 grandchildren !! what a joy it would be if they all were to come & visit me at once before I die "suffer little children to come unto me, for such is the kingdom of Heaven"

I continue to be very comfortable & enjoy the tranquility of Rome compared with the turmoil of London for I am really an animal of peace

The Tiber has so far remained quiet but there is always great fear of another inundation

I did receive the Vol of Keats' poems and shall it put in a vellum binding

I cannot keep at my painting constantly but go at it "by fits & starts" "its luck" I have'nt to get my living by it

The parts of the Illustrated with Keats' tomb I should like if you have got it

There has been a trial of a society of assassins who all conspired & killed a newspaper Editor the state of Rome is very alarming, tho' the good & Police is very good